REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, the specification has been amended to indicate the Applicants' earlier invention as disclosed in Japanese patent application, JP 2002-294377, filed on October 8, 2002.

For early publication, applicants also submitted on February 3, 2004 by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) Electronic Filing System (EFS) a corresponding ***electronic*** version of the amended specification, incorporating the amendments to the original specification set forth in this Preliminary Amendment. Early examination of the present application is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding earlier invention, please contact the undersigned attorney.

In the event that any fees are due in connection with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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